

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2006, Applicants have amended claim 1 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,489 to Monier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,621 in view of Kondo. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner refers generally to Figure 3 as allegedly disclosing a plurality of operation circuits. However, the Examiner has not indicated which elements of Figure 3 are considered equivalent to the plurality of operation circuits recited in claim 1. Nonetheless, nowhere does Monier disclose or even suggest a plurality of operation circuits which are connected, wherein a right-shift circuit in the first operation circuit performs right-shift using a right-shift in signal from a right shift circuit in the third operation circuit, and outputs a right-shift out signal generated through right-shift to a right-shift circuit in said second operation circuit, as required by claim 1. The Examiner refers to column 6, lines 37 – 39 as allegedly disclosing a right-shift circuit in the first operation circuit. However, this passage merely recites that the arithmetic coprocessor of Monier includes three shift registers. Monier does not disclose or suggest that a right shift operation is performed by a right shift circuit in a first operation circuit using a right-shift in signal from a third operation circuit or that a right shift circuit in the

first operation circuit outputs a right-shift out signal to a right-shift circuit in the second operation.

Kondo is relied on merely for the alleged disclosure of an addition and subtraction circuit. However, Kondo does not overcome the deficiencies of Monier as described above. Accordingly, as each and every limitation must be disclosed or suggested by the prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP § 2143.03), and none of the cited references, alone or in combination with each other, disclose or even suggest at least the features recited above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2 – 7 depend from claim 1. Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Harness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as the independent claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

III. Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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